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Ornis, Jahr. II, Heft 1, 2, 1886.

Ornithologist and Oölogist, XI, Nos. 11-12, 1886,\* XII, Nos. 1-3, 1887.

Report of the U. S. Commissioner of Agriculture, 1886.

Report of the Fish and Game Commissioners of Massachusetts for 1886.

Reports of the Micr. Soc. of West Chester, Pa., on an Act of the Assembly of Pennsylvania, awarding a premium for the Destruction of Hawks, Owls, Minks, Weasels, etc., 1887.

Swiss Cross, a Month. Mag. of the Agassiz Ass., I, Jan.-March, 1887.

Proceedings Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia, pt. 3, Oct.-Dec., 1886.

Proceedings U. S. Nat. Mus., 1886, pp. 289-624.

Zoologist, XI, Nos. 121-123, Jan.-March, 1887.

## GENERAL NOTES.

**The Common Murre (*Uria troille*) and the Razor-billed Auk (*Alca torda*) on the New England Coast.**—Among some birds received by Mr. F. B. Webster from a gunner at Eastport, Maine, December 27, 1886, I found three Murres. They were in the flesh and evidently had been dead only a few days. With them were sent one Brünnich's Murre (*Uria lomvia*), and no less than twenty Razor-billed Auks. The latter occurred in great numbers at various points between Eastport, Maine, and Provincetown, Mass., during November and December, 1886; ordinarily they are not common. The Brünnich's Murre, usually an abundant visitor in the late autumn, has been apparently nearly wanting the past season.—**WILLIAM BREWSTER, Cambridge, Mass.**

**Capture of the Razor-billed Auk at Norfolk, Virginia.**—By request of Dr. A. K. Fisher I send to 'The Auk' the following note recording the capture of the Razor-billed Auk (*Alca torda*) in the vicinity of Norfolk, Virginia. I am not able to state by whom it was shot, nor the date, but it was about the 15th of October. The bird was a male, in fine plumage and good condition. This, I believe, is the first one taken so far south.—**FREDERICK S. WEBSTER, Washington, D. C.**

**Megalestris skua.**—In 'The Auk,' Vol. III, No. 4, Oct., 1886, p. 432, I recorded what I supposed to be the third occurrence of this species in North America. A previous record of two seen on Nantucket Shoals, Oct. 11, 1883, may be found in 'Notes on the Habits and Methods of Capture of Various Species of Sea Birds that occur on the Fishing Banks off the Eastern Coast of North America, and which are used for bait for catching Codfish by New England Fishermen,' by Capt. J. W. Collins (pp. 13 and 14, of separate, extracted from the Annual Report of the Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries for 1882, pp. 323 and 324).—**WILLIAM DUTCHER, New York City.**

**More News of *Ardea wuerdemanni*.**—I have lately received from Mr. R. X. Stuart, of Tampa, Florida, four specimens of *A. wuerdemanni*, which were taken on the small island southwest of Cape Sable, Florida. Mr. Stuart writes me he procured six examples of this rare bird, as well as a fine series of *Ardea occidentalis*, which he found breeding in December, and obtained many eggs. Several sets of eggs of *Haliaëtus leucocephalus* were taken in the same locality.—CHARLES B. CORY, *Boston, Mass.*

***Ardea egretta* in Niagara County, N. Y.** — In April, 1884, I reported to the 'Forest and Stream' the capture of three birds of this species in the adjoining county of Orleans, on Nov. 28, 1883. At that time I little expected that I would ever have an opportunity to mention its occurrence nearer home. But on the 18th of last August two specimens were brought to me, by different persons, for identification, both taken in the town of Newfane, this county, near the village of Olcott, on Lake Ontario. I did not have an opportunity to learn the sex, but took the measurements of one of them: Length, 36½ inches; wing, 15½; tarsus, 6.—J. L. DAVISON, *Lockport, Niagara County, N. Y.*

**Further Notes on the Masked Bob-white (*Colinus ridgwayi*).**—Mr. J. C. Cahoon, who is at present collecting in Northern Mexico, has just sent me ten specimens of the Masked Bob-white, taken February 5-8, 1887, in the province of Sonora, about fifty miles south of the United States boundary.

The eight males included in this series show an even greater range of variation than the ten birds of the same sex so carefully described\* by Mr. Allen. Two agree closely with the male figured in Mr. Allen's plate, having similarly solid black foreheads and throats, and plain, rich cinnamon underparts relieved by only a few markings of black or white on the crissum and under tail-coverts. Both show traces of a white superciliary stripe, which in one extends forward to the front border of the eye, in the other to within about a quarter of an inch of the nostril.

The remaining six males have the mask and underparts more or less freely sprinkled with white. Rather curiously, those which have the most white about the head show the least beneath, and those which are largely white beneath have the mask nearly immaculate. In the specimen representing the extreme of the former condition the crown is scarcely darker than in *C. virginianus*, while a white stripe, averaging about one-tenth of an inch in width, extends along the side of the head from the nostrils to the nape, passing just over the eye. The chin, also, is nearly pure white, and the throat everywhere thickly spotted with white, the only unmixed black areas being a small patch just below the eye and a 'cravat' about half an inch wide on the jugulum.

The bird illustrating the other extreme has the central line of the abdo-

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\* Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., No. 7, July, 1886, pp. 273-290, pl. xxiii.